35TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { Ex. Doc. No. 102.

CARSON'S VALLEY.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A memorial of citizens of Carson's Valley, asking for the establishment of a territorial government over them.

APRIL 13, 1858.—Referred to the Committee on the Territories.

To the House of Representatives:

I transmit to the House of Representatives a memorial addressed to myself by a committee appointed by the citizens of that portion of the Territory of Utah which is situated west of the Goose Creek range of mountains, commonly known as "Carson's Valley," in favor of the establishment of a territorial government over them, and containing the request that I should communicate it to Congress. I have received but one copy of this memorial, which I transmit to the House upon the suggestion of James M. Crane, esq., the delegate elect of the people of the proposed new Territory, for the reason, as he alleges, that the subject is now under consideration before the Committee on the Territories of that body.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *April* 9, 1858.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., *February* 2, 1858.

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the citizens of the portion of Utah Territory lying west of the Goose Creek range of mountains, commonly known as "Carson's Valley," for the purpose of memorializing the legislature of the State of California to co-operate with us in procuring a territorial government for the people of the Great Basin, respectfully represent to your excellency that—

For some time past there has been a large emigration settling in that Territory from the Atlantic States, Oregon, California, New

Mexico, and other Territories, as well of the United States as foreign. The population in the various valleys lying between the Goose Creek mountains on the east, and California on the west, number at present at least ten thousand; that this emigration is constantly increasing because of the fertility of the land, the absence of disputes relative to land title, the facilities for permanent settlement, and general salubrity of the climate. Nearly all the emigration for the Pacific coast pass through this Territory, many of whom remain permanent settlers, and the rest to recruit during the winter preparatory to crossing the Sierra Nevada mountains; that, unlike California, the country is watered by refreshing rains most of the year, which gives to vegetation a vigorous growth, wherefore many citizens of California annually drive their cattle into our valleys for that subsistence which their autumn season denies. During the fall of the year immense droves of cattle, horses, &c., coming from the Atlantic States for the Pacific market, are compelled to remain for at least a season in our country. The actual settlers of the valleys have erected mills, cultivated farms, built cities, made preparation for working mines, and generally taken such steps towards permanent improvement as characterize the action of people who are blessed with the fostering care of a good government.

They further represent to your excellency that they have been under the governmental control of Utah.

The revolutionary condition of that government; their refusal to comply with the mandates of the President of the United States; their withdrawal of all protection from those residents of their Territory who are not of the Mormon faith; their instigating the Indians all over the country to suffer none to pass but such as have the permit of their revolutionary commander—all leave the constituents of this committee destitute of civil or political protection.

No application can be made for the redress of grievances; nor are there any recognized civil officers around whom the citizens can collect for protection. Destitute of the legal power of self-defence, they and their property left to the tender mercies of rude tribes of Indians who are goaded on to bloodshed by the merciless spirit of licentious and wild fanaticism, the citizens of that Territory are compelled to band themselves together for the purpose of self-protection. They are driven to the necessity of forming illegal tribunals for the punishment of offences which are numerous in consequence of the non-existence of law or power to punish.

In order that there be some show of authority, so as to control the Indians, they have been compelled to petition the superintendent of Indian affairs for California to send out an agent to treat with the Indians in the name of the United States, by which we hoped to satisfy them that the withdrawal of protection which was afforded by the Utah government did not divest us of federal assistance when occasion demanded the interposition of government.

Our relations with Utah are such that it is impossible for us to seek, at their hands, that guardianship which was entrusted to them for our benefit. To apply to them would involve us in their treasonable conduct; and although they may be disposed to befriend us, yet, to se-

cure that friendship, we must sacrifice our political principles and religious predilections. None but Mormons are safe. The Indians are instructed to spare none but Mormons and those who have a permit. The prejudices existing between them and us, growing out of differences in religious faith and domestic practice, have been so augmented and strengthened by their treasonable defiance to federal authority, that our danger from them and their Indian allies is much greater than attends citizens of any other State or Territory. By the present condition of things, and unless there be, at this session of Congress, a territorial government organized, the citizens of that great basin will be, as they have been, constrained to do illegally, for their own protection, that which should be done under legal authority. There being no tribunal for the punishment of wrongs or the redress of grievances, they are compelled to organize themselves, without legal authority, to protect their lives and property from the attacks of those who, taking advantage of the non-existence of competent authority, travel in gangs, depredating upon the honest industry of the actual settler, and against the incursions of the Indians, whose merciless system of warfare is but too well known to your excellency.

California, our near neighbor, and cognizant of our deplorable condition, with great unanimity, adopted resolutions recommending to Congress the compliance, at an early day of the present session, with the petition of the citizens of the valley, presented by James M. Crane, esq., our delegate to Washington, for a territorial government.

In view of the foregoing facts, your committee humbly ask that your excellency will be pleased to communicate to Congress, with such approving remarks as your excellency may deem the subject entitled to, the resolutions of the legislature of the State of California, relative to the organization of the territorial government, along with this memorial, so that Congress, having a full understanding of the matter, may afford us the benefits of a government, with all its beneficial incidents; and your committee will ever pray, &c.

WM. M. ORMSBY,
MARTIN SMITH,
Committee.

His excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,
President of the United States.

The President will see that this subject has received the favorable action of our State legislature. The gentlemen whose names are attached to this letter are men of high character, and have been attending to this subject. I commend their memorial to your favorable consideration.

JOHN B. WELLER,
Governor of California.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, *February* 2, 1858.